



May 14, 2013

The Honorable Lee Terry
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Terry:

The National Restaurant Association, the leading business association for the restaurant industry, comprising 980,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets and a workforce of more than 13 million employees, supports efforts to diversify and increase the sustainability of the nation's energy supply, as well as deal with the impact of energy and fuel prices on food costs and our members' everyday business operations. It is for that reason that we write in support of H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, which would enable the timely approval and construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Our members have operations across the nation and draw their energy supplies from a variety of generation sources, but a common issue for all is having a reliable and affordable energy supply, as rising costs and price spikes impact both consumer demand and restaurant operations. Energy prices are a key expense item for restaurants, averaging 3-4 percent of sales for a typical restaurant. Gas and energy prices also affect the restaurant industry through their impact on consumers. With a large portion of restaurant sales dependent on consumers' cash on hand, elevated levels of gas and energy prices can affect restaurant growth and job creation.

The construction of the Keystone XL pipeline could boost our nation's economy by creating thousands of jobs and increasing North American energy security. The restaurant industry supports these goals and looks forward to working with you on this important issue, as well as future efforts to diversify our energy resources and increase sustainable sources of energy for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott DeFife".

Scott DeFife
Executive Vice President, Policy and Government Affairs
National Restaurant Association